



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

02/26/2014 Minutes

February 26, 2014 Vision2020 Education Task Group

Present: Mike Stern, Danuta Forbes, Debra Stern, Carolina Buitrago, Julie Rosenberg, Lisa, Karen O'Hagan, Brecky Peabody, Josh Lobel, Setu Roday, Charlie Toulman, Sophie Sweeney, Sonya Connelly, Hedrick Ellis, Flynn Monks, Scott Lever, Carl Elkin, Mary Harrison, Heather Hill, Dana Ansel, Amy Markov, Carl Elkin, Sara Hugenburger Jefferson Cutter House, 611 Mass. Ave., 7-9pm

Meeting Minutes,

Taken by Debra Stern

Roundtable

Sign-up Sheet passed around

First Meeting – Mike Stern gave a brief history of Vision 2020 and how Education Task Group came to be.

Agenda and materials passed out

Attendees introduced themselves and were asked to share some of their concerns:

One parent from Hardy expressed concerns about class sizes and the schedule.

Another Hardy parent had concerns about how parent involvement is handled. One parent works at Tufts, more focus on college outreach, getting interns, several parents mentioned they want Arlington to be a place to stay all the way through, not just through elementary school, we don't want Arlington to be a starter town. HS level is one area of focus, we need a vision for the schools with the ultimate goal to have 100% graduate rate. Another parent was a math teacher, now works with K-3 math curriculum experience. Another parent is a former teacher and now a tech professional

Mike: We can work together to promote change. Town financially constrained... We need to find "no to low" cost solutions. Will work with administrators, town leaders. We are here to come up with ideas, improve transparency, be a cross-discipline group.

Mike: Review of by-laws

Teacher pay rankings; pay

Vision 2020 recognized. Can invite folks

Another parent spoke on improving communication between all schools, PTOs, school committee meeting -- the Education Task Group could be a valuable conduit of information.

Scott Lever, AHS grad, member of the Fiscal Resources Committee, concerned about fiscal resources; social and intellectual capital – how to take advantage, free up operating revenue, Bishop parent, he described some of the concrete things that the FRC has accomplished recently including changes to the water billing to save money – the process works for my committee. Board of Selectmen can be a slow process but it works. Mary Harrison advised that this cannot be an advocacy group, encouraged all members to take the state ethics test, but not required.

DISCUSSION OF GOALS

Promotion of group among all the schools, Survey parents

Volunteer teaching efforts – what are all the schools doing, Wednesday morning math program at Brackett, Math Olympiad at Dallin, etc.

Access to meeting minutes from different school meetings might be a good idea.

How do we market Arlington to universities to get interns -- interns in Newton used as an example of something we can try to work on.

Enrollment and population growth need to be investigated, and not just reacted to -- relationship with realtors potentially.

Possible questions for Annual Survey discussed as something ETG can do.

High School building condition discussed.

Possible open house/forum with Town and School officials

Role of advisory councils.

Long-term vision of schools needs to be addressed, doesn't seem to be coming from SC or Administration, graduation rate goals

Vision for music and languages in the schools.

What does it mean to measure success, how do we do that,

How do we share information?

How do we share information with principals and across schools??

[how about creating online forum / email group for sharing info.]

Teacher compensation – how can we attract inspiring teachers to Arlington.

New kindergarten registration very hectic, what is the best way to do this?

Teaching is too variable across elementaries

How is curriculum decided, we need more transparency, more interface with SC in a less formal, structured way other than the meetings.

Possible subcommittees:

1. Curriculum –teachers, professional development (exec. Function, emotional/social development
2. Financial
3. Enrollment
4. Technology
5. Partnerships/Relationships – interns, corp. partnerships [Karen/heather?]
6. Communication across schools, administrator communications with us.
7. Afterschool, enrichment

Prospective Committee Members:

Curriculum – Hedrick, Sonia, Carolina, Brecky

Financial – Scott, Mike

Enrollment – Amy Markov

Technology – Carl, Hedrick

Partnerships/Relationships – Karen, need other university contacts

Communication -- Flynn, Danuta, Sophie?

Afterschool, enrichment – Sarah H , Julie and Lisa

SPED - ?? We need to address this at the next meeting.